

Washington State Executive Ethics Board

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Executive Ethics Board News

Shirley Battan, Chair Gerri Davis, Vice Chair Lisa Marsh, Member Anna Dudek Ross, Member

November 19, 2019

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, November 8, 2019, for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Shirley Battan and Members Lisa Marsh and Anna Dudek Ross. Others attending included: Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Michelle Carr, Assistant Attorney General, Chad Standifer, Assistant Attorney General, David Killeen, Senior Investigator, Bobby Frye, Investigator and Ruthann Bryant, Administrative Officer. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

The Board heard oral arguments on a Motion for Summary Judgment regarding EEB Case 2018-008 Therese Ferreria.

In lieu of an enforcement hearing, the Board accepted stipulations from:

- Lori Hawley, a former Financial Service Specialist 5 with the Department of Social and Health Services, may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by committing welfare fraud over a two-year period by falsely submitting applications indicating that she was a single parent with five children who was the only sole source of income. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,250.
- Janet Watkins, a Social Service Specialist 3 at the Department of Children, Youth and Families, Child Protective Services, may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain and used her personal email to transmit confidential information. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,000 with \$500 suspended.
- **Sean Dougherty,** a Fish and Wildlife Biologist 4 with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$500 with \$100 suspended.

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2019-018 (Sequeira), EEB Case 2019-019 (Weber), EEB Case 2019-027 (Joplin), EEB Case 2019-030 (Scott), and EEB Case 2019-035 (Parnell).

Meeting agendas can be found at www.ethics.wa.gov under "Meetings."

The Board found No Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2019-022 (Knutson) and EEB Case 2019-029 (Carter).

The Board Dismissed EEB Case 2019-012 (Rahr) and EEB Case 2019-033 (Mullins).

The Board issued Final Orders of Default in EEB Case 2018-037 (McPherson), EEB Case 2018-033 (Gray) and EEB Case 2018-060 (Johnson).

The Board reviewed an Executive Director's Dismissal: EEB Case 2019-028 (Reid).

Board Action:

The Board reviewed and approved the following policies:

- Ethics Board of Accountancy
- Using Electronic Communication Systems Department of Financial Institutions
- Use of State Resources Department of Veteran's Affairs

Approved versions of policies will be uploaded to the Board's website at www.ethics.wa.gov.